

Written Testimony of David LaCerte
Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
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Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Committee.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to appear before you again today. Thank you to the President for renominating me to serve a full term on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I appreciate this Committee's time in considering my nomination.

Thank you also to my family for your grace, your patience, and your support. Without your strength, none of this would be possible.

I'd like to speak to our accomplishments in the few short months since I've been seated at FERC, discuss the commitments I made to you in the fall while this Committee was considering me for confirmation to my current term, and finally address what you can expect from me if I am given the honor of serving a full term as FERC Commissioner.

At my first open meeting as a Commissioner at FERC, we proposed rulemakings to expand the successful pipeline certification program to both hydroelectric and liquefied natural gas facilities. These are both mature industries with sophisticated parties and with which the Commission has considerable experience. Therefore, considering the expansion of the flexibilities provided by blanket certifications, as we propose to do in the rulemakings, is warranted.

We prioritized cutting red tape, advancing stalled projects, and ensuring permits are issued in a timely and legally defensible manner. I have also been vocal about the need to declutter the Commission's dockets. Proceedings that linger for years serve no one. They create uncertainty for investors and regulated industries, delay the construction and operation of critical infrastructure, and erode confidence in the regulatory process. Since my first month at the Commission, I have supported action to remove outdated and unnecessary regulations, and issue timely orders, and I will keep striving for more efficient, disciplined processes at FERC.

In my second month at the Commission, we demonstrated our commitment to powering America's leadership in artificial intelligence and advanced technologies, while protecting ratepayers. This may be the defining competitive challenge of our generation. If we are not the world's leader in AI, our adversaries will be. We will meet this moment, and we will do so without sacrificing affordability.

In December, we issued an order where we addressed service to large load—including data centers—co-located with generating facilities, through revisions to PJM's Tariff. Among those revisions, the Commission directed PJM to establish transparent rules governing certain large load arrangements and certain transmission services. I recognize that this represents a first step in

a long road, but I'm proud of the decisive action that the Commission took in that proceeding, which continues to be pending before us.

At a time when energy demand is rising and reliability challenges are mounting, the Commission has acted with focus, efficiency, and disciplined urgency. Year-to-date, the Commission has already issued 18% more orders over the same period in 2025. Since I've joined the Commission, we've voted in nearly 280 proceedings. And the Commission has authorized the addition of 4.14 million dekatherms of natural gas transportation capacity, enough fuel to support the electricity needs of 13 to 18 million American households. That pace will further accelerate as we remove distractions, extra-jurisdictional side quests, and focus on what matters. By that I mean this Commission should not use the limited number of hours in a day, month, and year on matters extra-jurisdictional to the agency.

By narrowly focusing on our statutory jurisdiction, we are building. We are advancing. And we are strengthening energy security for our nation. We're fighting for American households, and I am committed to ensuring this momentum continues in order to bring long-term results. I made commitments to Senators across the aisle about how I would approach this work. I welcome accountability for those commitments and want to make clear how I intend to uphold them if my nomination for another term is confirmed.

From my first open Commission meeting as a Commissioner, I stated plainly that my duty is to the ratepayer. I said then that there would be many people in that room looking to curry favor for one project or one industry. And I meant what I said: none of those people represent the ratepayer. We on the Commission do, as you in the Senate do. My commitment to the ratepayer has not wavered and, going forward, it will not.

On affordability and reliability, I have worked to ensure those principles remain the Commission's North Star. As load growth accelerates, I have been unwavering in my commitment that this growth must not come at the expense of ordinary Americans who are already concerned about their energy bills. I have publicly stated that it is our duty as Commissioners to fully protect ratepayers from undue costs, and I will continue to carry out that duty.

I also remain committed to resource neutrality as required by the Federal Power Act. The Commission's role is not to steer the market toward any particular fuel or technology, it is to ensure that rates are just and reasonable, and that markets are competitive and fair. I have held steadfast to these principles and will continue to do so.

On FERC's independence, let me be direct. The value of this Commission to markets, to investors, and to the American public depends on its credibility as an independent, decision-making and rate-setting body. That independence is not a courtesy; it is a structural safeguard that Congress deliberately built into this agency.

Will I continue to seek input from all stakeholders? Absolutely. Sound decisions require broad engagement, especially with those who each day engage with our regulated markets as industry participants, consumer groups and as state representatives. But consultation does not

compromise independence. My duty is to the law and to the statutory responsibilities entrusted to this Commission.

Which brings me to what I view as the central obligations of a full term as a FERC Commissioner: ensuring just and reasonable rates, protecting ratepayers, restoring stability, and reinforcing confidence in our energy markets. Long-term energy investment—the kind that builds pipelines, transmission lines, power plants, and the infrastructure backbone this country—requires regulatory predictability. When the Commission acts within its congressional mandate, makes decisions grounded in law and fact, and resolves matters in a timely manner, it sends a clear signal to capital markets that the rules of the road are stable and reliable. That confidence strengthens investment. It supports utilities and infrastructure development. Most importantly, it protects every customer and ratepayer, young and senior, from hard-working families to locally owned businesses who participate in a fair market.

While I have served on this Commission for only a relatively short time, I have approached this responsibility with seriousness, independence, and a clear understanding of whom I serve: the American people. I welcome and am humbled by the President's renomination of me to continue that work.

It is a profound honor to serve on this Commission, and I welcome your questions today as I seek this Committee's approval and the Senate's confirmation to permit me to continue this vital work throughout a full term. It is my hope that you will see that my record reflects fidelity to the law and commitment to FERC's mission, two standards against which I believe every Commissioner's actions should be evaluated.